



County of Los Angeles  
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May 14, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO PERMIT THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER TO REQUIRE HEPATITIS A VACCINATIONS FOR FOOD SERVICE WORKERS (ITEM NO. 64-B, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF MAY 15, 2007)**

Item No. 64-B on the May 15, 2007 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich requesting that the Board of Supervisors sponsor legislation to amend the California Retail Food Code to permit the local health officer, to require Hepatitis A vaccinations for food services workers in restaurants, catering companies and in wholesale markets.

As indicated by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in their May 3, 2007 report to your Board, County Counsel has determined that the County is precluded from enacting an ordinance to require mandatory Hepatitis A vaccinations for food service workers. DPH noted that the California Retail Food Code, which becomes effective July 1, 2007, provides for the protection of public health from food-borne illnesses through mandatory reporting to the local public health officer rather than vaccination of food service workers. DPH also reported that the Centers for Disease Control currently does not recommend routine Hepatitis A vaccination, and that the California Department of Health Services has no formal position, but agrees that the routine vaccination of food service workers is not necessary. Finally, DPH, citing cost benefit analyses, concluded that it would not be economical to require immunizations of the 300,000 to 400,000 food service workers in Los Angeles County.

Despite the report's findings, DPH recommended that all adults, if not immune, receive the vaccine. DPH will promote this recommendation on its website and through communications with health care providers.

DPH supports legislation that would increase vaccination, encourage early recognition and timely reporting of Hepatitis A among food services workers. However, DPH notes that this would require a complex system of record-keeping by either the food facilities or the County to keep track of vaccinations among a mobile workforce of approximately 400,000. It will also create costs for the food facilities. These issues will need to be addressed as a part of the legislative process.

Although there is County policy to support increased funding for public health activities including immunizations, communicable disease control, and food safety, there is no Board policy requiring Hepatitis A vaccinations for all food service workers. **Therefore, sponsorship of this legislation is a matter for Board policy determination.**

Our Sacramento Legislative advocates have determined that there is not an appropriate vehicle for County-sponsorship in the current legislative session; therefore, we will pursue sponsorship in the 2008 Legislative Session.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Public Health